

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I given Carmustine powder for injection?

Carmustine powder for injection contains the active ingredient Carmustine. Carmustine powder for injection is used to treat malignant glioma, a type of brain cancer, and multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood. It may also be used to treat other types of cancers called Hodgkin's Disease and Non- Hodgkin's lymphomas.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using Carmustine powder for injection ?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I take Carmustine powder for injection?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to carmustine or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use Carmustine powder for injection?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with Carmustine powder for injection and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do Carmustine powder for injection be given?

- Carmustine is usually given every six weeks. This is called one cycle of chemotherapy. Your doctor will decide how many of these cycles you will need.
- Carmustine is administered as a slow infusion into your vein, over 1 to 2 hours. The infusion will be prepared and given in hospital by your doctor or nurse.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I use Carmustine powder for injection?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while taking Carmustine powder for injection?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your doctor if you have an infection or high temperature. Your doctor may decide to delay your treatment until the infection has gone. A mild illness, such as a cold, is not usually a reason to delay treatment. • Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not use this medicine after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack. • Do not use this medicine if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering or if the injection shows any visible signs of deterioration.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmustine powder for injection will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward. The unopened vials of the dry powder will be stored under refrigeration (2°C - 8°C) (Refrigerate. Do not freeze).

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using Carmustine powder for injection ?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

During treatment with Carmustine you will require close medical supervision. Like all medicines, it is possible that Carmustine may have unwanted side effects in some people such as- nausea, vomiting, lung toxicity, pain, swelling or burning at the injection site, chest discomfort, irregular heartbeat etc.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

Carmustine powder for injection

Active ingredient(s): *carmustine*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using Carmustine powder for injection. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using Carmustine powder for injection.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using Carmustine powder for injection?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use Carmustine powder for injection?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use Carmustine powder for injection?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using Carmustine powder for injection?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using Carmustine powder for injection?

Carmustine powder for injection contains the active ingredient **carmustine**. Carmustine belongs to a group of medicines called cytotoxic medicines. You may also hear of these being called chemotherapy medicines. Carmustine may be used in combination with other medicines to treat your cancer.

Carmustine works by killing cancer cells.

The use of Carmustine to treat your condition can lead to side-effects, which are discussed below.

Carmustine is used to treat malignant glioma, a type of brain cancer, and multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood. It may also be used to treat other types of cancers called Hodgkin's Disease and Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas.

Your doctor may have prescribed Carmustine powder for injection for another use. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.

2. What should I know before I am given Carmustine powder for injection?

Warnings

Do not have Carmustine powder for injection if:

- you have a history of severe allergic reactions to carmustine or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine.

- you have, or have had any of the following conditions unless you have discussed it with your doctor:
 - liver problems
 - kidney problems
 - lung disease
 - blood disorder with a reduced number of white blood cells
 - blood disorder with a low blood platelet count
 - blood disorder with a decreased number of red blood cells
 - lowered immunity due to treatment with medicines such as corticosteroids, cyclosporin or other medicines used to treat cancer.

Check with your doctor if you:

- have an infection or high temperature. Your doctor may decide to delay your treatment until the infection has gone. A mild illness, such as a cold, is not usually a reason to delay treatment.
- are not sure whether you should start using this medicine, talk to your doctor.
- develop an allergic reaction (such as a rash, local pain or swelling), wipe off the ointment, stop using Carmustine powder for injection.

It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/ her before you start using Carmustine powder for injection.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Females: Check with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Like most cytotoxic medicines, Carmustine is not recommended for use during pregnancy. If there is any need to consider Carmustine during your pregnancy, your doctor will discuss with you the benefits and risks of using it. Carmustine may affect your developing baby if you take it during pregnancy.

Males: Tell your doctor if your partner intends to become pregnant while you are using Carmustine or shortly after you have stopped using Carmustine.

You should use some kind of birth control while you are using Carmustine and for at least 12 weeks after you stop using it. Carmustine may cause birth defects if either the male or female is using it at the time of conception.

Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.

Do not breastfeed while using Carmustine. It is not known whether Carmustine passes into breast milk. Therefore, there is a possibility that the breast-fed baby may be affected.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits with you.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with Carmustine powder for injection and affect how it works or may increase side effects. You may need to use different amounts of the medicines or take different medicines.

Carmustine when used in combination with other medicines or radiation therapy may further depress your immune system.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while using this medicine.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start having Carmustine.

4. How do I give Carmustine powder for injection?

How much to give

- Your doctor will decide what dose of Carmustine you will receive based in the characteristics of your cancer. The dose also depends on your condition and other factors, such as your weight, kidney function and other chemotherapy medicines you are being given. Carmustine may be given alone or in combination with other drugs.

When to give Carmustine powder for injection

- Carmustine is usually given every six weeks. This is called one cycle of chemotherapy. Your doctor will decide how many of these cycles you will need.

How Carmustine powder for injection is given

- Carmustine is administered as a slow infusion into your vein, over 1 to 2 hours. The infusion will be prepared and given in hospital by your doctor or nurse.

How long to give Carmustine powder for injection

- Several courses of Carmustine therapy may be needed depending on your response to treatment. Additional treatment may not be repeated until your blood cell numbers return to acceptable levels and any uncontrolled effects have been controlled.

- Ask your doctor if you want to know more about the dose of Carmustine you receive.

If you are given too much Carmustine powder for injection

As Carmustine is given to you under the supervision of your doctor, it is very unlikely that you will receive too much. However, if you experience any side effects after being given Carmustine, tell your doctor or nurse immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital. You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of a Carmustine overdose include the side effects listed below in the "Side Effects" section but are usually of a more severe nature.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any concerns.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (**by calling 13 11 26**), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

5. What should I know while having Carmustine powder for injection?

Things you should do

Call your doctor straight away if you:

- have allergies to
 - any other medicines
 - any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes
- have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:
 - liver problems
 - kidney problems
 - heart problems, including a heart attack
 - lung problems, including asthma
 - blood disorder with a reduced number of red or white blood cells
- are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.
- are breast-feeding or intend to breast-feed.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you have Carmustine powder for injection.

Things you should not do

- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack. If you are given it after the expiry date has passed, it may not work very well.
- Do not use this medicine if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering or if the injection shows any visible signs of deterioration.

Looking after your medicine

- Carmustine powder for injection will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward.
- The unopened vials of the dry powder will be stored under refrigeration (2°C - 8°C) (Refrigerate. Do not freeze).

Follow the instructions in the carton on how to take care of your medicine properly.

Store it in a cool dry place away from moisture, heat or sunlight; for example, do not store it:

- in the bathroom or near a sink, or
- in the car or on window sills.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date or is damaged, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

6. Are there any side effects?

Like all medicines, it is possible that Carmustine may have unwanted side effects in some people. During treatment with Carmustine you will require close medical supervision.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

More common side effects

Common side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suppression of your immune system; reduced white blood cells, reduced platelets, reduced red blood cells• Nausea, vomiting• Lung toxicity• Respiratory disorders (lung related disorders) with breathing problems.	Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wheezing,• Symptoms of an allergic reaction, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing or a tight feeling in your chest• swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body	Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rash, itching, hives or flushed, red skin• dizziness or light headedness.• Frequent infections, fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers• Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal• Passing little or no urine, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting and breathlessness• Weakness, tiredness, loss of appetite, weight loss and stomach pain• Changes to vision or loss of sight• Shortness of breath, particularly with exertion, chronic dry, hacking coughing• Chest discomfort, irregular heartbeat• Loss of appetite and rapid weight loss• Pain, swelling or burning at the injection site.	notice any of these serious side effects.
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Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What Carmustine powder for injection contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	carmustine 100 mg/vial.
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	ethanol absolute 3 mL/vial (required for preparation of the infusion).
Potential allergens	None

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What Carmustine powder for injection looks like

Carmustine is presented in composite packs in.

Pack of 1s:

Each carton pack consists of a vial containing 100 mg carmustine and a vial containing a 3 mL ethanol absolute sterile diluent. (Aust R 341128).

Who distributes Carmustine powder for injection

Medsurge Healthcare Pty Limited

Telephone: 1300 788 261

Website: www.medsurgehc.com

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